



Cleaning up for a good purpose: Erste Group donates to WWF and sends furniture to Bosnia and Herzegovina

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from left to right : Peter Weiss, Project Leader Erste Campus DNA; Herbert Juranek, Management Board Member Erste Group; Lisa Simon, WWF Climate Group and Klaus Bergmann, Head of Erste Group Environmental Management © Norbert Novak

To be able to move into Erste Campus – the new headquarters of Erste Group – with less ballast, the employees of Erste Group started a major office clean-out. The result: 127 tons of paper was disposed of and more than 80 cabinets that will no longer be needed.

“Since 2011, we have reduced paper consumption at our company by 25%. When we move into our new offices at Erste Campus in 2016, we want to be able to operate with even less paper. And because it is easier to clean out stuff when it is for a good purpose, we motivated our employees by donating EUR 3,000 to a WWF project. In total, we disposed of 127.6 tons of old paper in this clean-out,” explained Herbert Juranek, Management Board Member of Erste Group. Additionally, employees of Erste Group Immorent will help WWF this autumn to remove neophytes (non-native plants) in the marshes of the Nature Reserve Marchegg* to promote the natural development of our habitat.

“We are pleased that Erste Group financially supports our project region in the March-Thaya floodplains – this money makes it possible for us to do very valuable work. What is especially wonderful though is that the employees of Erste Group actually come to the Auen and work together with us in the Nature Reserve,” said Gerhard Egger, Head of the March-Thaya Auen Programme at WWF.

The cabinets emptied in the clearing out action were donated to the people affected by the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina. “We organized the transportation of 80 cabinets with the help of the Military Command Center Vienna and these were sent to schools, universities and hospitals in the affected regions,” said Peter Trost, Head of Erste Group Physical Security, who developed and implemented this idea jointly with ERSTE Stiftung. “We are happy to have made a small contribution to replace the material losses caused by the flooding disaster in the spring and summer.” We collected fully functional so-called ‘Three Folder-High Standards Cabinets’ – the most frequently used type at Erste Group. As only this type of cabinet was loaded, making it possible to transport a larger number of cabinets.

*An der March covers an area from Zwerndorf and Marchegg of around 1,100 hectares of floodplains. This is a habitat for the white-tailed eagle, red and black kite, and beavers. WWF has been supporting the natural development of the landscape there since the 1970s, because marshlands are important, among other things, for climate protection; they store detrimental greenhouse gases – comparable to tropical rainforests - and have a balancing effect on the local climate.



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